

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 EUR-12 FEA-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: SYG COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST IN POST-GA

PRESS CONFERENCE

1. TEXT FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 OF WALDHEIM'S REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS MADE IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AT HIS ANNUAL POST-GA PRESS CONFERENCE. UN PRESS CORPS HAS FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON TWO COMMENTS: (A) THAT "EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE NOT MADE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS" AND (B) THAT "IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE PEACEKEEPING MANDATE FOR 'OUR PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST' WILL BE EXTENDED AGAIN AFTER IT EXPIRES IN THE SPRING". REUTERS IS REPORTEDLY USING SYG'S UNQUALIFIED STATEMENT ABOUT DOUBTFULNESS OF RENEWAL OF UNEF/ UNDOF MANDATES AS ITS LEAD. AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE, SYG EXPLAINED TO A FEW REPORTERS THAT WHAT HE REALLY MEANT WAS THAT "UNLESS EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION MADE SUBSTANTIAL, PROGRESS, IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER MANDATES WOULD BE EXTENDED IN THE SPRING". AT USUN INFORMAL REQUEST, EDITED TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WILL REFLECT THIS CLARIFICATION. WALDHEIM HAS CONFIRMED THIS TO AMB SCHAUFELE.

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2. TEXT FOLLOWS OF SYG'S REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT URGENT PROGRESS BE MADE ON THE PROBLEMS OF MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS. IN MIDDLE EAST UN HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH EFFORTS OF PARTIES AND OF OTHER GOVTS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT. IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN NEXT FEW MONTHS TOWARDS SUCH A SETTLEMENT WE SHALL CERTAINLY BE FACING A VERY GRAVE SITUATION.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM HAVE NOT MADE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. I THINK THAT THIS IS REASON WHY WE ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE WORRIED ABOUT SITUATION. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER PEACEKEEPING MANDATE FOR OUR PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN M.E. WILL BE EXTENDED AGAIN AFTER IT EXPIRES IN SPRING. WHEN I TALKED TO PRESIDENT ASSAD IN SYRIA TOWARDS END OF LAST YEAR. WHEN PRESIDENT ASSAD AGREED TO EXTENSION IN THAT CONVERSATION. HE MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT SYRIA IS READY TO ACCEPT A FURTHER EXTENSION OF MANDATE BEYOND SIX MONTHS. SO THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS WHICH CREATE UNEASINESS AND IT IS IN LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, STALEMATE IN POLITICAL FIELD, QUESTION WHETHER PEACEKEEPING FORCE WILL BE EXTENDED OR MANDATE FOR THEM EXTENDED, THAT I HAVE MADE THESE STATEMENTS...I REPEAT THAT SITUATION REMAINS VERY SERIOUS IN M.E., AND IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH EITHER BY STEP BY STEP POLICY OF DR. KISSINGER, OR LATER THROUGH A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, THEN I BELIEVE SITUATION THIS YEAR WILL BE EXTREMELY SERIOUS...

"WE (WALDHEIM AND KISSINGER) ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT. THIS IS REALLY AN AREA WHERE BILATERAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY CO-CHAIRMEN OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AND OUR MULTI-LATERAL EFFORTS THROUGH UN HAVE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY. I REPEAT THAT I AM IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH DR. KISSINGER IN THIS REGARD, AND OF COURSE, ALSO WITH OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, AND I THINK THIS IS VERY FRUITFUL COOPERATION. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT IT WILL PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS. OF COURSE, THERE ARE MANY THINGS ONE CANNOT SAY BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT IS IN INTERESTS OF CAUSE OF PEACE AND SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS THAT WE KEEP CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THESE EFFORTS CONFIDENTIAL. I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE IS DEFINITELY NO COMPETITION BETWEEN THE EFFORTS OF SEC. OF STATE AND BY OUR CONTACTS. WE HAVE SEEN THAT WHEN I TRAVELED TO M.E. IN ORDER TO DISCUSS EXTENSION OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES, AND INTER-RELATED PROBLEMS. THIS HAS NOT LED AT ALL TO COMPETITIVE ACTION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE, SOVIET

GOVT OR UN, DEFINITELY NOT.

OIL AND M.E.:

"...MY VIEW IS THAT THIS PROBLEM (OIL) HAS TO BE SOLVED
PEACEFULLY AND NOT THROUGH USE OF FORCE. I AM CONVINCED
THAT USE OF FORCE CANNOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, AND COULD
CREATE A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION NOT ONLY WITH REGARD
TO AREA IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED, BUT ALSO FOR WORLD AS A WHOLE.
SO I CAN ONLY EXPRESS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT THIS
PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED NOT THROUGH CONFRONTATION, BUT
THROUGH COOPERATION..." (THIS WAS IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON
KISSINGER "BUSINESS WEEK"...INTERVIEW)

"...I REPEAT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WHOLE QUESTION IS
A THEORETICAL QUESTION. AND WE WILL NEVER REACH
THE POINT WHERE IT BECOMES PRACTICAL."

"I AM DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT WE NEED BETTER COOPERATION
BETWEEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND CONSUMERS...WE HAVE TO
COOPERATE. THIS PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED OR SOLVED IN
AN ISOLATED WAY. THEREFORE, I SUPPORT ALL THOSE EFFORTS
THAT TRY TO ESTABLISH A CLOSER BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN
BOTH SIDES. I STILL HOPE THAT THIS KIND OF COOPERATION
WILL BE ACHIEVED AND THERE ARE GOOD, ENCOURAGING SIGNS
IN THIS RESPECT".

BENNETT

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